Library

SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

(including the report of the
Public Health Inspector)
for the year ending 31st December 1960

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30082626

"Merrymead",
Charlton Road,
Shepton Mallet,
Somt.

November 1961.

TO THE

SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr.Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1960.

I have the honour to be, Mr.Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

F. R. Buckler,

Medical Officer of Health.

SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS - 1960

------oOo------

Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

Dr.F.R.Buckler, L.R.C.P., D.C.H.,

Public Health Inspector

W. L. Barnsley, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
(who also holds the appointment of Surveyor).

Health Visitor

Miss M. E. Horrell, S.R.N.,S.C.M.,H.V.,A.R.S.H.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,278
Population (1959)	5,250
Number of inhabited houses (1960) estimated.....	1,857
Rateable Value, 1st April 1960	£67,563
Produce of a Penny Rate (estimated).....	£276

Number of inhabited houses is based on the following:-

Dwelling Houses	1,735
Banks and Offices with living accommodation	6
Shops etc., with living accommodation	75
Club Premises with living accommodation.....	1
Hotels and other licenced premises	21
Public Institutions (Hospitals) etc.	4
Crown Properties	15
Total	1,857

Social Conditions:

In addition to shops, offices, building trades and allied trades, the main sources of employment in the town are cider factories (2), brewery, shoe-making, millers, bacon factory and meat products, railways (2), agricultural engineering, research chemists, general engineering (2), garages and motor engineering, rope works, motor haulage.

There is very little unemployment other than that of a transitory nature.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Births	
	Males	Females
Live Births:-		
Total	98	75
Legitimate	93	72
Illegitimate	5	3
Still Births:-		
Total	0	0
Legitimate	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0

	Deaths		
	Total	Males	Females
Deaths from all causes	81	47	34

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth:-	
(a) from Sepsis	0
(b) from other causes	0
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-	
Legitimate 1, Illegitimate 0, Total 1	
Deaths of Infants under one week	1
" " " from one to four weeks	0
" " " from one to six months	0
" " " from six to twelve months	0
Total	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of deaths occurring in the District was 81 compared with 76 in 1959.

The chief causes of death were:-

Cancer	14
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	25
Old Age	6

In all "Causes of Death":-

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were	11
" " " " " " 81 and 85 were	16
" " " " " " 86 and 90 were	7
Those dying above the age of 90 were	1

A total of 35 or 43.21% of the total deaths.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Death
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Tuberculosis:- Total	5	0	0
(a) Respiratory	4	0	0
(b) Non-Respiratory	1	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	2	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0

The notification of Infectious Diseases by Medical Practitioners was satisfactory.

4. OPHTHALMIA NEONATORIUM

No cases notified

CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Heart and Circulatory Diseases were slightly less in evidence this year.

5. SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT

A. Professional Nursing in the Home

(1) General: There are two nurses in the district engaged in general District work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

(2) For Infectious Diseases: All cases were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the District.

B. Midwives

There are two Certified Midwives practising in the District.

C. Hospitals available for the District

(1) Tuberculosis: None
(2) Fever: None
(3) Aged Sick: One
(4) Maternity: One

There is the District Hospital at Shepton Mallet for the treatment of general medical and surgical cases.
There is no Public Assistance Institution, the building having been taken over by the County Council as an Institution for persons suffering from Mental Deficiency.

D. Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Infants: None

E. Ambulance Facilities

(1) For Infectious Cases: None

(2) For Non-infectious Cases and Accidents: Two Motor Ambulances and one sitting case Car are kept at the Ambulance Depot, Shepton Mallet, and in cases of need, additional ambulances are obtainable through the local branch of the B.R.C.S. and also from Wells and Radstock.

F. Scabies

No cases of Scabies have been reported to me.

6. LABORATORY WORK

Examinations of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Bath; considerable use of this Laboratory has been made during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanic anti-toxins may be obtained from County Hall or the Public Health Laboratory.

7. WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is operated by the Bristol Waterworks Company, is satisfactory in quality and, except in periods of exceptional drought, in quantity.

The water is not liable to Plumbo-solvent action.

So far as can be ascertained the houses etc., can be divided up as follows:-

Mains supplies direct to houses; 1,693. Population 5,120
Mains supplies by stand pipes 34; Population 106
Houses supplied by wells 8; Population 24.
Estimated total number of houses in District 1,735.

8. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the premises in the Urban District are connected to the public sewers discharging to treatment works at Darshill, but approximately 70 properties in outlying parts of the area are not connected to the main drainage system.

The difficulties arising from the discharge of strong trade effluents into the public sewers continued throughout the year, but, towards the end of the year, the pre-treatment plant at one factory, which was referred to in my last report, came into operation. The pre-treatment consists principally of removal of a proportion of suspended solids and adjustment of the pH value together with balancing of the rate of discharge into the sewer. The first obvious effect of pre-treatment on the Council's disposal works was a reduction in the quantity of sludge to be dealt with but there is little change in the strength of the sewage.

Discussions concerning measures to be adopted to accommodate trade effluents continued and two visits were made by your technical officers to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Arising out of these visits your Consulting Engineer prepared a scheme for (a) re-circulation of effluent (b) an increase in filter capacity and (c) increase in capacity of sedimentation tanks. The construction works required for (a) were in progress at the end of the year.

Samples for analysis were taken as follows:-

Crude Sewage	-	40
Treated Effluent	-	78
Tank Effluent	-	8

9. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total estimated number in District on 31st December 1960:

(1) W.Cs:	1912	(3) Pail Closets:	28
(2) Chemical Closets	0	(4) Other:	0

Number of conversions to water carriage system during year: Nil

10. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The existing arrangements for the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse have been continued. A weekly collection is made at all premises in the District, this work is carried out by Direct Labour, a Ford Thames model 12 cubic yard covered refuse collection vehicle with hydraulic tipping being used; and a 3-ton Bedford model is on hire to the Council when necessary.

As regards trade refuse, the Council make a charge, in normal cases, on the basis of 5% of the rateable value of the trade premises and for this payment collect trade refuse on two days per week and on request. In the case of a large shoe factory, special arrangements have been made for the removal and disposal of their trade refuse, the actual cost being recovered from the occupiers of the premises.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of by tipping on the controlled system at a disused quarry at Winsor Hill, Downside, Shepton Mallet; except that some trade refuse and waste paper are incinerated at the tip.

The collection of waste paper continued throughout the year.

As additional areas of the district become developed it is evident that the service is rapidly reaching its maximum capacity with the existing vehicle. The greatly increased use of pre-packed foods, together with improved designs of solid fuel burning appliances and the increasing use of gas and electricity for cooking has resulted in a significant change in the character of refuse collected in-as-much as there is now greater bulk with less weight. These factors had been foreseen many years ago by the vehicle manufacturers who introduced compression plates into the refuse collection bodies by which means vehicles can be loaded almost to their weight capacity as opposed to their cubic capacity with a much reduced weight and the necessity for an increased number of journeys to the tip.

11. CAMPING SITES

There are none in the District.

12. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS & POOL

There is one Swimming Pool at Eastfield in the Urban district owned by the Council. The water is continually circulated, filtered and chlorinated. The temperature of the water is maintained at about 70 deg. F. (minimum).

The type of purification plant is the Horseley Piggott with a Wallace and Tiernan Automatic Chlorinator.

The turnover period is estimated to be approximately 12 hours. The pool is filled from the mains of the Bristol Waterworks Company.

The daily number of bathers fluctuates considerably, mainly on account of climatic conditions; the estimated maximum daily load is 400 persons, including a large proportion of children, the average during the season is about 130. Residual chlorine and pH samples are taken twice daily.

There is also one privately owned swimming pool.

13. HOUSING

Total number of permanent dwellings in District	1735
Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority	436
Action taken during year:	
(1) Number of houses included in Clearance Areas still to be made	9
(2) Number of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Sec.48 of the Housing Act, 1957.....	Nil
(3) Number of houses demolished under Sec.42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas)	4
(4) Number of houses demolished or closed under Sec.17 of the Housing Act, 1957 (individual Unfits)	20
(5) Number of temporary dwellings (huts etc.) demolished..	Nil
(6) Number of houses declared unfit under Sec.9 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
(7) Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owners or following the issue of Closing Orders	Nil
(8) Number of unfit houses occupied under licence.....	Nil
(9) Rent Act, 1957 (1st Schedule), Certificates of Disrepair	
(a) Number of applications received	Nil
(b) Number of Certificates issued.....	Nil

Houses erected during year:

Local Authority..... 20
Private enterprise.... 3 Total: 24

One unit of accommodation gained by the conversion of one house into two

13. HOUSING (Contd)

Houses in course of erection:
Local Authority..... 8
Private enterprise..... 2 Total 10

Number of post-war houses erected from 1.4.45 to 31.12.60
By Local Authority: 311
By Private Authority: 83
Housing Programme for 1961 (Local Authority):-
For Slum Clearance 8 (in progress)
For other purposes 0
(a) Number of temporary units occupied:-
(i) Prefabs. 6; (ii) Huts etc. Nil
Houses required:- To replace houses scheduled for demolition: 8
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of year: 104

14. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS MADE UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS, 1949-54

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:

	1 Received		2 Approved		3 Rejected	
Discretionary	Aps. Aps.	No. of Houses	Aps.	No. of Houses	Aps.	No. of Houses
31.7.49 - 31.12.59	21	29	14	19	7	10
During Year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	21	29	14	19	7	10
Standard	9	-	9	-	-	-

15. FOOD

MILK

(a) Number of Registered Distributors..... 5
(b) Number of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms) 5
(c) Number of Licenced Dealers of Designated Milk 5
(d) Number of supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside your area..... 2 *

* Issued to one dairyman for (a) T.T. and (b) Pastuerised Milks

DESIGNATED MILK SAMPLING

Designation	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	Nil	-	-
Sterilised	Nil	-	-
Pastuerised	Nil	-	-

Biological Sampling: Nil

15. FOOD (Contd)

ICE CREAM: Number of premises registered for:-

(a) Manufacture and retail ..... Nil
(b) Manufacture only..... Nil
(c) Retail only 16

In practically all cases, supplies of ice cream are obtained in cartons or wrapped from well-known manufacturers.

In addition to registered premises, ice-cream is also sold by many restaurants, hotels, etc., and at the local cinema.

16. SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BACON FACTORIES

None owned or leased by Local Authority

(a) Private slaughter-houses ..... Nil
(b) Bacon Factories .....Licensed 1;Operating 1

There are no slaughter-houses in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption.

At the C.W.S. Bacon Factory inspections are carried out by staff employed by the Company. Pigs detained by the staff are inspected by a veterinary officer.

Number of pigs killed 27,113
Whole carcases condemned... 308 ..... Wt. 24,051 lbs.
Part carcases condemned... 5408 ..... Wt. 25,770 lbs.
Reported as being affected with abscesses and tuberculosis

17. FOOD PREMISES

Number of premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955 23

Additional washing and sanitary accommodation installed at one food shop.

18. FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	M/c line No.	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted	M/c line No.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced * by Local Authorities	1	22	17	-	-	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	20	11	-	-	2
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total	-	42	28	-	-	-

See over for Factories Acts (continued)

2. Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M Insptr	By H.M. Insptr		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	1	1	-	-	-	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Total	-	1	1	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948 (continued).

Part V111 of the Act

OUTWORK

Nature of work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			N/c line No.
		No.of outworkers in August list reqd by Sect. 110(1)(c)	No.of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No.of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No.of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing Apparel: Making etc.	13	19	-	-	-	-	-	13
Cleaning & Washing	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14

19. CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

During the year informal action was taken in one instance concerning the emission of grit and prompt adjustments to plant by the firm concerned produced satisfactory results.

20. KNACKERS YARDS

Number registered in district ..... Nil

21. FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

None